

CABINET MEMBER – COMMUNITIES

Cabinet Meeting Update – 25 November 2010

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Community Payback

Deployed weekly across the full Sefton region and an integral part of Sefton's response to Bonfire and Mischief Period plans (see separate part of the report). Managed by Strategy Support Officer, main headlines of weekly work include:

- Undertaking clear up work in Formby pine woods, throughout the summer months, as part of the successful Operation BeachSafe;
- Undertook painting of Abbeyfield Park railings (SONO) and painting of shop roller-shutters to remove graffiti at Marion Square (SONO). Cleared Glen Park (Sefton East) of broken glass and litter and cleaned up Kings Garden (Derby Ward), which was a key activity in restoring the Gardens. Routine graffiti removal rota in Southport (on key tourist routes) agreed and actioned, as a result this local issue has now been removed from Area Committee considerations.
- Average calculations suggest that Payback team have undertaken over 2,400 man hours of unpaid work, removed 640 bags of litter and dog fouling and 32 tonnes of fly tipped rubbish.

Drug Action Team

A Single Point of Assessment service is now fully functioning in 221-223 Knowsley Road offering client choice with evidence emerging to improved client outcomes. The service provides a holistic assessment of client need, (health & social needs are considered alongside drug treatment needs), recovery mentoring and learning mentoring. Housing and Welfare rights advice is available on site and staff from Job Centre Plus holds weekly surgeries. Sefton Carers Centre staff is available to support carers and families of drug users.

A series of open days have arranged for November, to include local Councillors, to agree and disseminate the DAT's new vision for service;

The Sefton DAT Partnership is developing new approaches to the delivery of drug treatment and social reintegration in order to achieve a step change in system performance and the outcomes achieved by service users. We are moving both local community and prison treatment services beyond the traditional medical maintenance model towards a new service model that will offer more personalised services, greater choice, and increased prospects for sustainable recovery and social re-integration via improved access to housing, education, training and employment.

Anti Social Behaviour Unit

A number of full ASBO and ABCs enacted through period including individuals in Southport, Litherland / Ford and St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell areas. The team worked with a family in Litherland / Ford through a Family Intervention Programme designed to reduce the risk of their offending

behaviour and worked closely with the Police across each of the BCU areas. The team referred 3 Young people to Sefton MBC's Leisure Services Positive Futures Programmes, and worked on Neighbourhood dispute issues in Shakespeare Street (Southport), as well as undertaking an environmental audit in Ainsdale.

Present caseload – 153 live cases, supporting 5 Vulnerable Victims (from a peak of 10) and a further 25 cases imminent.

Media / Marketing / Communications

Major campaigns for the period include:

- '*Lets Stop Anti-Social Behaviour*': officially launched in September 2010, which includes development, design and distribution of leaflet and poster campaign, which received press coverage in "free" newspapers across the Borough;
- '*Christmas Presence*': including newspaper advertising, adshels and ad-vans in the key night time economy locations of Southport and Waterloo/Crosby (commencing early December);
- '*Appearing as a witness in court*': which included the development, and distribution of copies of a new DVD, produced in Sefton by the LCJB and with assistance by the Corporate Communications team, which provides information to vulnerable witnesses on the court experience. (Copies have been given to all local representatives)
- '*Responding to Hate Crime*': DVDs produced and forwarded to elected members for their information (available also to view online at www.respectsefton.co.uk)

Other highlights from the period include advertising of Sefton's Best Bar None campaign (2010), composing for publication press releases on "Operation Maynard" (tackling dangerous dogs in South Sefton), reductions in theft from cars in Linacre / Derby, Saturday's Skip scheme, Operation BeachSafe, and work of Victim's Champions. Further the content for a four-page newsletter as part of the anti-social behaviour campaign, is being finalised, which follows on from the "Informed" branding of last year Halloween/Mischief/Bonfire Night, and information on the bonfire night displays were posted to the Sefton council homepage, and the partnership website (www.respectsefton.co.uk).

Civil Contingencies

The Civil Contingency Team led in the immediate aftermath of the flooding incident in Bootle (August 2010), including overseeing the Community Fund which managed the distribution of charitable donations. Further, the team undertook "Exercise Watermark" a planning exercise which looked at the emergency prepared plans for Southport and Ormskirk NHS emergency. Further they undertook a review of human aspect of Business Continuity and continued work on the Mass fatality and excess deaths work streams, as well as taking part in One Vision Housing's severe weather exercise planning and reviewed National Oil Spill arrangements for the Borough.

A Bootle Power Outage on Thursday 14th October did not activate Civil Contingencies procedures although incident was monitored by the team. They also attended Mass Fatalities training out of area and worked on mass fatality and excess plans with other local authorities and agencies; both very large

work streams. Training was also given in Emergency Duty Coordinator activities and Atlas and NRE.

Strategy Support Officers / Community Safety Area Partnerships

Major examples of geographic work undertaken, include

- Managed a successful residents' Fun Day at Copy Farm Park, bringing communities and services together in an informal but informative way;
- Street Games arranged for Canning Road, Southport to tackle youth ASB incidents. (It proved so successful that Norwood Councillors looked at funding options for an extended stay);
- Arrangements made with Parks and Gardens colleagues to re-institute the BMX Bowl (a popular youth diversionary activity) in North Park, following disrepair;
- Hosted a meeting with One Vision Housing and other partners on new CSAP sub group, designed to achieve Kite Mark Status for King Avenue / St Augustine Field area

Further, the Strategy Support Officers have also been managing a number of "cross cutting / area" initiatives which include:

- Hate Crime – Preparation for publication of "Helping Victims of Hate Crime" booklet and DVD, key in raising awareness of Hate Crime, and forms part of a re-launch of tackling Hate Crime across Sefton;
- Firework Displays / Mischief Period Planning – Please see full paragraph below;
- Operation BeachSafe – Management of "Operation BeachSafe", which provided Police and other CSAP colleagues with an action plan for making safe the beaches with Formby during the summer period;
- Violent Crime Plan –Leading on development of a multi agency Violent Crime action plan, in Partnership with Merseyside Police, and as part of this, is arranging for resources to be managed for Christmas Presence Campaign.

Monthly CSAP meetings across the seven areas, continued to be chaired and serviced, and "one off" requests for assistance (from both members of the public and local Councillors most notably) continue to occupy time and skills, reflected in the attached tables, where complete, and some of which continues.

As well as CSAP meetings, the Strategy Support Officers also attended various Area Committee Meetings, to seek requests for funding for the Bonfire Displays and offering feedback to the Committees on the work achieved. They continued their close working relationships with the Police Inspectors and other police colleagues in their respective areas as well as looking at cross border working with police and Council colleagues in Kirkby and Liverpool North specifically.

Bonfire / Mischief Period Plans

Operation Staysafe was carried out on Saturday 30th October 2010 as a way of reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and dealing with young people deemed to be vulnerable by taking them home or to a designated 'Place of

Safety'. These places were The Brunswick Youth Centre, The Gordon Youth Centre and Crosby Youth Centre.

The Staysafe Operation has been formulated by a small working party that put a protocol in place to help inform and guide the delivery of the Operation. The Operation involved an Arriva bus staffed with Merseyside Police and Youth Workers travelling around the areas of Crosby, Litherland, Netherton & Bootle led by calls of anti-social behaviour in those areas. These areas were focussed on by the Operation using the areas that had the highest levels of ASB in 2009.

The below points provide the highlight results that the Operation contributed to:

- 5 of 7 ACA's have seen Rowdy / Inconsiderate Behaviour incidents reduced since 2008
- There has been a 1% reduction in Rowdy /Inconsiderate Behaviour incidents compared to 2009 and an 11% reduction compared to 2008
- Whilst Firework related ASB has increased slightly numbers remain low with only 10 recorded incidents across Sefton on Mischief Night
- All ACA's have had reduction in Criminal Damage
- There has been an overall reduction in Criminal Damage offences of 18% compared to mischief night 2009 and continual downward trend across three years.
- This equates to a saving of £18,360 for mischief night alone
- The 2 worst affected ACA's from 2009 contributed 66.66% of this saving

Sefton Cleansing Teams, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Crews and Merseyside Probation teams have worked in a co-ordinated manner to remove combustible material from Sefton. Calls from the public were filtered through to Sefton's Liveability Team to those teams. In total over 140 tonnes were removed from Sefton borough. This has contributed to a reduction in secondary fires by 37.3% (110 in 2009 down to 69 in 2010). Sefton is, this year, the best performing and safest Borough in Merseyside regarding secondary fires

Three successful Fire-work displays were held at Bootle, Netherton and Maghull. These displays, which were hosted by Leisure Services, were funded by the areas respective Area Committees, Merseyside Police, the Safer Stronger Communities partnership and Maghull Parish Council.

- Around 15,000 Sefton residents attended these three displays
- There was a 38% reduction in Firework Related ASB from 2009 to 2010 on the night

As a partnership we have succeeded in making this year's Halloween & Bonfire period the safest there has been on record.

Performance

Across the range of crime indicators Sefton shows a good performance in reducing crime. Examples include:

Litherland / Ford area – Reduction in Criminal Damage by 42% and a 4% increase in satisfaction levels regarding ASB;
Sefton East Parishes – Reduction in Domestic Burglary by 33%;
Southport – Reduction in Theft from Shops by 25%;
Linacre / Derby – Reduction in Woundings by 13%;
St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell – Reduction in Secondary Fires by 14%
Crosby – Reduction in Woundings by 30%
Formby – Reduction in Criminal Damage by 48%

Sefton are ranked 4th in terms of IQUANTA returns (Similar Group – July to September 2010) across the BCSC comparator, 3rd in terms of Assault, 1st in terms of woundings and below the average of the 15 similar authorities on in terms of Criminal Damage, Robbery, Theft From a Motor Vehicle, Theft From the Person, Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle, and Vehicle interference.

September's perceptions surveys also show healthy results on residents' views on where they live;

- Percentage of Sefton residents that are very/fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live is up by 5.2% in September compare to the previous month (from 74.7% to 79.9%).
- Percentage of Sefton residents that feel very safe/safe after dark out in their neighbourhood up 2.1% (from 60.9% in August to 63% in September).
- Percentage of Sefton residents that feel drug dealing is a problem is down 2.5% (from 23% to 20.5%).

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Participatory Budget Update

Participatory Budget (PB) in Manor and Church is progressing well.

Manor Ward

- Work have been carried out to Devilliers and Runnels Lane fields.
- Landscaping to the green on Whitemeadow Drive and planting along Williams Way will be completed in the next month.
- Kings Church and St. Frideswyde's Church have received PB funding to carry out Community Projects in the Thornton area.
- Bollards have been installed in Stiles Hey to prevent cars, vans breaking up the pavement.
- Saturday skips are still being provided and will carry on until the end of the financial year.

Church Ward

- Intergenerational Youth Project has carried out a gardening project in the Seaforth part of Church and young people have distributed hanging baskets that they made to residents in Dewlands Road.

- A Dog Fouling Project has been carried out in Church ward which included extra enforcement action and awareness raising activities being carried out.
- Two tea dances will take place at SING plus between now and March 2011 for local elderly residents.
- A good garden competition has taken place in streets not covered by the In Bloom competition with residents receiving vouchers for a local garden centre in order to buy plants and/or equipment.

Business Neighbourhoods Update

- Business Village Partnerships have signed up to carrying out a review process of their activity, which will be completed by 10 December. Outcomes of this will be fed into wider area management proposals and will help determine the future direction of the BVP function and remit.

Area Management Update

- A rolling programme of presentations has been initiated with senior officers across the Council with regards to the agreed changes to Area Committee processes.
- Meetings to discuss area management proposals held with Elected Members from three political parties with further consultation with the Conservative Group
- Initial meeting to discuss area management held with key partner agencies e.g. One Vision Housing, NHS Sefton and Police.
- Meeting arranged with Neighbourhood Regeneration Thematic Group to discuss area management proposals in November and Southport Area Partnership to discuss ideas at area level.

SEFTON EQUALITIES PARTNERSHIP

Equality Act 2010

Work is underway through the Corporate Equalities Group to ensure that the Council, and Council departments, are prepared for the above Act which was passed in April of this year. Briefing sessions for managers and staff are being delivered across the Council. A new approach is being embedded corporately to effectively manage impact assessing and meet the requirements of the equality duties. This work is on going.

Sefton Equalities Partnership Committee

The Committee met for the first time in October 2010, following a number of intensive workshops with our under represented communities. The Committee is now part of the Sefton Borough Partnership structure and enables Seftons under represented communities to support sefton Council and other key partners with their statutory equality duty. At the meeting the group agreed terms of reference and direction of travel around a number of key areas of work, for example the development of a sefton wide inequalities evidence base/ report.

Community Development Project for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

The bi-lingual Skills project has recruited 20 people. Volunteers on the project will be working within relevant services areas providing interpretation and translation services in the New Year. Currently Schools and transportation services have been identified. Eighty additional staff have now been trained in the 'Mental Health First Aid' from the public and third sectors. Inter-cultural Competency Training has been delivered to over 40 staff from the public and third sectors.

ABILITY Network

The ABILITY network co-ordinated and facilitated a Customer service focus group with Sefton council frontline services (Avarto). The outcome of the session was the development of number products on improving the accessibility of their services. The day focussed on the experiences and needs of our learning disabled community and people with mental health issues

Mystery Shopping

20 disabled people and people with limiting long term illness have been commissioned to work with the Cancer network and a number of Merseyside wide NHS acute trusts. The outcomes of this work will form the basis of an action plan to remove barriers to access.

Work Ability Project

Work-Ability is currently supporting 40 members of Sefton's community with disabilities or long term limiting illness towards employment, training or volunteering opportunities. They have developed key partnership with employers and employment support organizations. The outcome of this work is building the capacity of frontline organizations to understand and meet the needs of our disabled communities and to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.